

## CASPIR Aircraft Accident Cards

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**Serial:** FE343

**Title:** North American Harvard Mk. IIB serial:FE343 Accident Card

**Author:** Royal Air Force (RAF)

**Subject:** This accident involved 1 aircraft on 1943-December-20. Harvard s/n FE343. This accident involved 2 people. Humphrey EW, Hughes WA This accident had 1 fatality. Pilot Officer William Austin Hughes RAFVR Killed in Flying Accident service no:152836 Harvard FE343

**Keywords:** RAFHarvard ,FE343,41 SFTS,41 Service Flying Training School,Trenton,1943-December-20,Hughes,HumphreyRCAF L20

**Created:** 1943-12-20

**Link:** <https://caspir.warplane.com/aircraft/serial-search/aircraft-no/200000852#FE343>

ACCIDENT CLASSIFICATION

|  |                      |                     |  |                  |                         |                     |                   |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|--|------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| UNIT<br><b>41 S.F.T.S.<br/>Weyburn</b> |                      | COM<br><b>2</b>     | PLACE<br><b>10 miles SW of Trenton</b> |                  | DATE<br><b>20-12-43</b> | TIME<br><b>1500</b> |                   |
| A/C TYPE<br><b>HARVARD</b>             |                      | No.<br><b>FE343</b> | ORASH CAT.<br><b>"A"</b>               | S.F.<br><b>x</b> | M.E.                    | DAY<br><b>x</b>     | NIGHT             |
| PERSONNEL                              |                      | RANK                | NUMBER                                 | DUTY             | INJURIES                |                     | SIGNAL            |
| <b>Hughes, W.A.</b>                    |                      | <b>P/O</b>          | <b>152386</b>                          | <b>FI</b>        | <b>Killed</b>           |                     | No. DATE          |
| <b>Humphrey, E.W.</b>                  |                      | <b>LAC</b>          | <b>1604317</b>                         | <b>PP</b>        | <b>Slightly Inj.</b>    |                     | <b>A.12 20-12</b> |
|  |                      |                     |  |                  |                         |                     | D 14 (REVISED)    |
|  |                      |                     |  |                  |                         |                     | No. CHECKED       |
|  |                      |                     |  |                  |                         |                     | <b>#6</b> ✓       |
|  |                      |                     |  |                  |                         |                     | <b>#83</b>        |
| ENGINE                                 | ENGINE NUMBER (S)    |                     | HOURS FLOWN BY PILOTS                  |                  |                         |                     |                   |
| <b>Wasp An.1.</b>                      | <b>42/1569/21493</b> |                     | <b>Serious</b>                         | NIGHT            | ON TYPE                 |                     | TOTAL             |
|  |                      |                     |  |                  | SOLO                    | DUAL                | SOLO DUAL         |
|  |                      |                     | <b>41</b>                              | <b>46</b>        | <b>269</b>              | <b>114</b>          | <b>312 167</b>    |
|  |                      |                     | <b>22</b>                              | <b>20</b>        | <b>58</b>               | <b>59</b>           | <b>89 96</b>      |

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PURPOSE OF FLIGHT:

TECHNICAL OFFICER'S REPORT:

1400/POL ✓

NATURE OF ACCIDENT:

Aircraft struck power cable and dived into river: Pilot killed. Witness states: Saw three a/c flying around.

A/6 were flying N about 50' to 60' above the water, flying in line astern. The third plane was flying at a little lower level than the other two which were flying at the same level. There were high tension wires stretched across Missouri River near point where witness was standing and he thought that all three a/c would hit the wires but first two a/c cleared wires, but the third

CLASSIFICATION: a/c struck and broke wires.  
16. Unauthorized low flying or aerobatics.

22 Collisions - Obstrs (22)

SECONDARY OR CONTRIBUTORY FACTORS:

41. Hitting obstructions.

42. Unauthorized low flying

COURT OF INQUIRY OR INVESTIGATING OFFICER'S REPORT:

FINDINGS:

SUMMARY No. 2201

CAUSE: Harvards FE343, FE636, and 3780 engaged in deliberate and unauthorized low flying as a result of which Harvard FE343 crashed.

RECOMMENDATIONS (1) Prompt and severe disciplinary action against other two pilots. (2) Prompt disciplinary action against u/t pilots concerned for perjury.

(3) That all units in #2 T.C. be ordered to prohibit flying over the U.S. without permission of the C.I., such permission not to be granted lightly.

CONCLUSIONS OF A.I.B. A/C crashed into high tension wires, the pilot (instructor) failed to see wire when he was engaging in deliberate unauthorized low flying.

ACTION TAKEN:

Agree. This is a bad case complicated by pupils apparently committing perjury in an attempt to defend the instructors.